

REMARKS

Claims 54, 56, 76, 78-83 and 85-99 are pending in the present application. Claims 54, 56, 76-82 and 93-99 are allowed. In the Office Action dated May 4, 2004 the Examiner rejected claims 83, 85 and 86 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hintermaier et al. (U.S. 6,100,187). Claims 89, 91 and 92 are rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hintermeier as applied to claims 83 above. Claims 87, 88 and 90 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner is thanked for his indication of allowable subject matter in the present application. Accordingly, in order to expedite the issuance of allowable subject matter, applicant has amended claims to conform to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. It is understood, however, that applicant does not agree with the Examiner's rejections based on the cited prior art, and is amending the claims solely to expedite the issuance of claims. Applicant therefore reserves the right to include any of the claims as originally presented in any continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application.

Independent claim 83 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 87 and 88. Therefore, presently amended independent claim 83 is now in allowable form. Claims depending from claim 83 are also allowable based upon the allowability of the base claim and further in view of the additional limitations in the dependent claims. Claims 87 and 88 are cancelled. Due to canceling claim 88, the dependency of claim 89 was amended so that it depends from independent claim 83.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.  
Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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